

7-31-1884

Letter from unknown sender to Thomas G. Clemson, 1884 July 31

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Recommended Citation

"Letter from unknown sender to Thomas G. Clemson, 1884 July 31" (1884). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 1389.

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Chestnut Hill - Philad^a

July 31. 1884.

Thos G. Clemson.

A
C626.

My dear old friend

I received your affectionate letter with kind invitation for Mrs. Stevenson & myself to make you a visit, which indeed would give us much pleasure. Mrs S.' health is so delicate that with all my desire to see you and talk over our boyhood I would feel uneasy away from her — In the summer of 1880 I made a trip to Europe leaving Mrs S. at home as nothing would induce her to cross the ocean, had she been with me my stay might have been longer — Europe is the ^{Country} ~~Place~~ for a man out of business — When in Paris I often thought of you particularly when strolling in the old part of that City — I lunched

at a Cafe' near the Odeon
 where no doubt you have ~~been~~
 many times, — Hotel de l'Empire-
 Rue Neuve St. Augustin was my
 stopping place which is a long
 way from the Odeon, —

Paris has ~~changed~~ more in the
 last 25 years than any city of Europe,
 the new Boulevards are perfectly
 beautified, — I saw nothing like it in
 Europe particularly Passage d'Opera —
 — a visit to Europe is no longer a
 journey. you go to Church here one
 Sunday the next Sunday you are at
 Church in Paris — The Swarms of
 Yankees that go over is enormous
 about 60,000 a Summer — you can
 scarcely go in any direction without
 meeting Americans at every turn,
 It has become fashionable to spend
 the Summer in Europe instead of the
 fashionable watering places & it is
 much cheaper, my passage from
 Philad. & back was \$137.50. & I

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had a state room to myself, in
a first Class Philad^a Steamer (Ohio) -
Ten days going & nine coming back.

You ask me if I remembered when
you sail'd for France - perfectly as if it
occur'd a week ago, you called to bid
Sam. Yorke & myself good bye on your
way to the ship at the Auction Store where
we served our apprenticeship - If my
memory serves me right our deceased friend
Ralph Hammondy was with you at that
time - The Hammondy's have all passed
away of our generation - Dr. Sylvanus
died some years past^d and his wife
also, she was a thin little thing -

Dr Edward the youngest a widower
died in 1881. or 82 & left two sons, his
wife was a daughter of the late Chas
Griff of Arch St. - I remember your
arrival home well, I called to see you
after talking a while you jump'd up
from your chair & said come let us
go to Holahan's & get a mug of beer
& pretzel which you said you had

often long^d 2

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for in Paris - and there we had
another long Confab. - these are
all very pleasant reminiscences. -

- August 16th - you will see I commenced
to write to you on the 31st July -

Since that time I have been away
in Montreal & Quebec (British Canada)
where I went with my son & married
daughter, - You can leave Philad^a.
at 2. P. M. & arrive at Montreal at
7. A. M. next day. which we did
sleeping all night in a Pullman Car
in a very comfortable berth, -

As you do not remember Chestnut Hill
you remember Germantown which is
about 5 Miles from the Old Court House 2^d
marked St.
where all the Mile Stones started from,
after passing thro' Germantown & Mt. Airy
is Chestnut which is 9. miles from the City & is
about 100 feet above tide water, your
nephew George North is a near neighbor
to me, - we have Express Trains which
leave us here in 25 minutes & have 26 Trains